

UNITED STATES MARSHALS SERVICE



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ROYAL FLUSH ROUND UP COMPLETE

Four months after the conclusion of Operation Royal Flush, the final member of the Latin Kings that evaded arrest in November, 2004 is now in U. S. Marshal custody.

Pedro Hernandez-Rodriguez, aka "Kiko" was arrested without incident by Deputy U.S. Marshals while he installed an air conditioner unit in the Lake Buena Vista area, which is part of the Disney resort property in Orlando. Hernandez is originally from Puerto Rico, and had no known address in Rhode Island. His only association to Rhode Island was as a member of the Latin Kings. The arrest ends a four month intense investigation by the U.S. Marshals in Rhode Island into locating the four Kings who avoided arrest. The U.S. Marshals are tasked with locating DEA fugitives thereby enabling DEA agents to concentrate on drug investigations instead of utilizing its workforce in the often lengthy process of searching for fugitives.

Hernandez-Rodriguez is charged with knowingly, intentionally, and willfully combined and conspired with other individuals to distribute and possess with intent to distribute a mixture and substance containing cocaine. The other Latin Kings arrested are Juan Guerrero on February 14, 2005 at a residence in Denver, Colorado. Juan Jusino who was arrested December 16, 2004 on Union St, and Freddie Rodriguez who was arrested on December 20, 2004 on Atlantic Ave, both in the city of Providence. Juan Guerrero is scheduled to appear before Magistrate Judge Martin on Friday, March 11 at 10:00 a.m. for his initial appearance since his arrest in Colorado.

Annually, investigations carried out by the U.S. Marshals result in the apprehension of approximately 34,000 federal fugitives. The District of Rhode Island currently works with the State Police on the R.I. Violent Fugitive Task Force, DEA, and offers their assistance to any local law enforcement agency that requests assistance locating fugitives.

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